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ARCHIE'S PAL JUGHEAD COMICS

JUGHEAD JONES SEMI-PRIVATE EYE IN SHADOW OF THE POD MAN, MAN

DIRECT EDITION
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J. JONES, SEMI-PRIVATE EYE:
SONG OF THE podman, MAN!
"LET'S SEE... A 'MAD MAN' ON THE 'MIC'...
...PLUS A WILD TEEN MUSIC SCENE...
TEEN CLUB
DO NOT
...AND A BURGLARY GANG KNOWN AS THE SHADOW THIEVES!
YEP...

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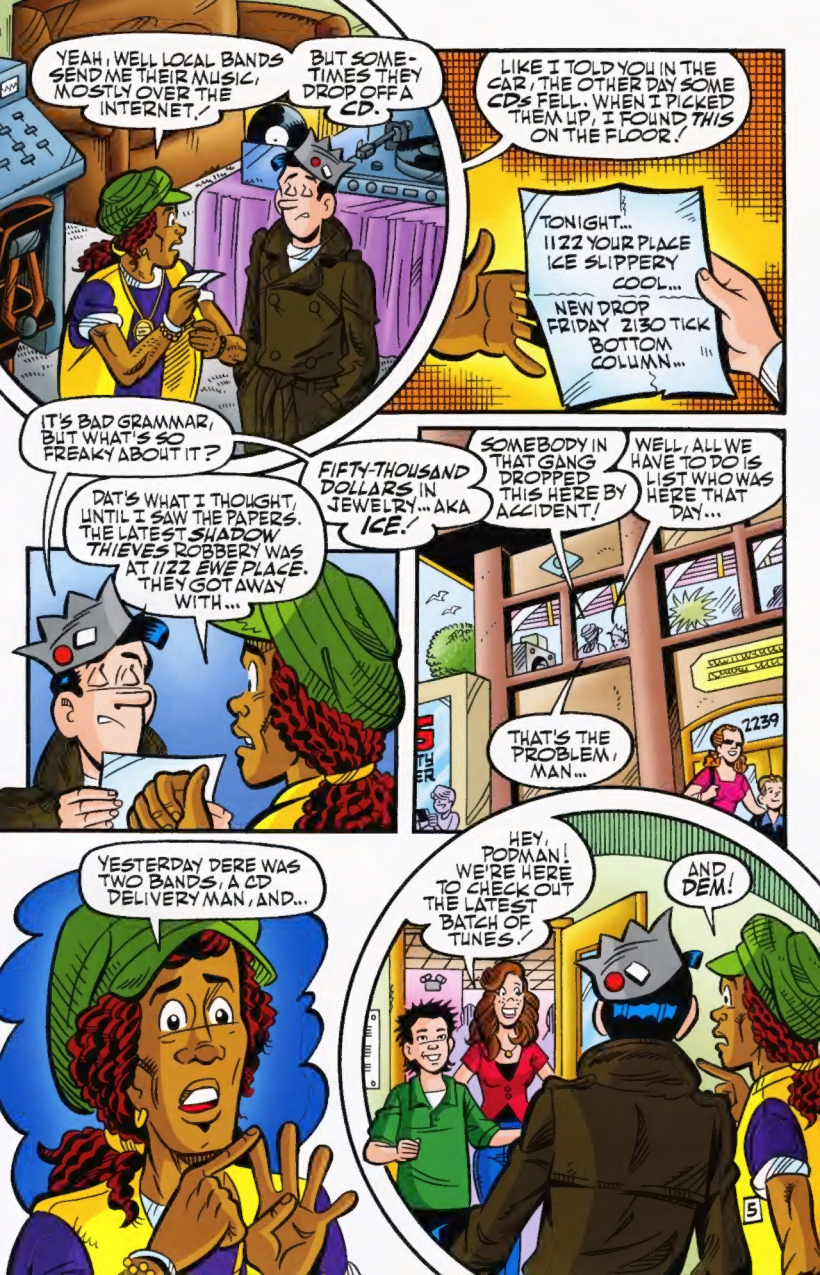
...THAT'S HOW I GOT IN THIS MESS!
THAT, AND...
WATCHING THOSE OLD DETECTIVE MOVIES...
...SOLVING THREE REAL CRIMES...
...AND...

... MEETING A GUY CALLED THE PODMAN!"
YOU DA ONE EVERYBODY'S SAYING CAN SOLVE ANY MYSTERY?
WELL, I--
DAT'S GOOD!
'CAUSE I GOT ONE MAKES THE LOCH NESS MONSTER LOOK LIKE A TAPEWORM./
NOT WHILE I'M EATING... PLEASE.
I'M PHILLIPE ALLOYSIUS DeCHAMP--AKA THE PODMAN, MAN!
PODMAN MAN?
JOHNNY TOO COOL
NO, JUST PODMAN, MAN.
BUT YOU JUST SAID...
NEVER MIND THE ELOCUTION LESSON... 'CAUSE WE GOT BIGGER FISH TO FRY./
SHADOW STRIKE
WITH DEM!
Whoa! THEY ROBBED YOU?!
WORSE!
I KNOW WHO DEY ARE!
SHADOW THIEVES STRIKE AGAIN
2

TWENTY MINUTES AND SOME WILD TALK LATER...
...MY CLIENT HAD US PULLING UP TO A FAMILIAR BUILDING.
THE FOD MAN
SCREEEE
CARL
COMMUNITY CENTER
DIS PLACE HAS A LOT OF GREAT PROGRAMS GOING ON.
I KNOW. A BUDDY OF MINE TEACHES A COMICS CLASS HERE.
COOL BEANS!
WELL, I DO MY THING HERE, TOO!
I DO AN INTERNET PODCAST SHOW CALLED "CATCH DA BEAT"!
YOU PLAY DEMOS OF UNKNOWN LOCAL BANDS AND SINGERS!
HOW'D YOU KNOW DAT?
I, UH... DABBLE IN MUSIC SOME-TIMES!
4


YEAH, WELL LOCAL BANDS SEND ME THEIR MUSIC, MOSTLY OVER THE INTERNET.
BUT SOMETIMES THEY DROP OFF A CD.
LIKE I TOLD YOU IN THE CAR, THE OTHER DAY SOME CDs FELL. WHEN I PICKED THEM UP, I FOUND THIS ON THE FLOOR!
TONIGHT... 1122 YOUR PLACE ICE SLIPPERY COOL... NEW DROP FRIDAY 2130 TICK BOTTOM COLUMN...
IT'S BAD GRAMMAR, BUT WHAT'S SO FREAKY ABOUT IT?
DAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT, UNTIL I SAW THE PAPERS. THE LATEST SHADOW THIEVES ROBBERY WAS AT 1122 EWE PLACE. THEY GOT AWAY WITH...
FIFTY-THOUSAND DOLLARS IN JEWELRY... AKA ICE!
SOMEBODY IN THAT GANG DROPPED THIS HERE BY ACCIDENT!
WELL, ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS LIST WHO WAS HERE THAT DAY...
2239
THAT'S THE PROBLEM, MAN...
YESTERDAY DERE WAS TWO BANDS, A CD DELIVERY MAN, AND...
HEY, PODMAN! WE'RE HERE TO CHECK OUT THE LATEST BATCH OF TUNES!
AND DEM!
5

PUT ON YOUR HEADSETS AND START CHECKING OUT THE LATEST DEMOS!
WHO'S HE?
UH, TELL YOU LATER. NOW GO ON.
THEY'RE LIKE MY JUNIOR PRODUCTION STAFF AND MUSIC REVIEWERS!
OKAY... SO WHAT HAP-PENED?
THE CD STACK SPILLED ON THE FLOOR. THAT'S WHEN I FOUND THE NOTE. SOMEONE WHO CAME IN HERE IS ONE OF THE SHADOW THIEVES!
UH... WOULDN'T THE POLICE BE BETTER FOR--
I DON'T WANT THE POLICE COMING IN MAKING FOLKS THINK I DON'T TRUST DEM!
ESPECIALLY DEM.
OKAY... THEN THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO GO...
MEET YOUR NEW STUDIO ENGINEER!
SAY WHAT?
6

There's a trick to pulling off a good undercover job. You have to...
...look natural, cool...
...in control at all times and ready to move fast and sure...
BUMP!
...being sure not to draw attention to yourself.
It's a trick that takes years to master.
HIP HOP CLUB MIX
I should really take some time to learn it... one day...
But for now, I got it right...
...sort of!
7

BUT AFTER 3 DAYS, I HADN'T COME ACROSS A SINGLE CLUE WHO DROPPED THE NOTE.
OR WHERE THE SHADOW THIEVES WOULD STRIKE NEXT.
HOT SPOT TEEN CLUB
HE'S WITH ME.
I DJ HERE ON THE WEEKENDS. IT'S A GREAT GIG!
AND A MEMBER OF THIS BAND WAS IN YOUR STUDIO THAT DAY.
YEAH, MAN... THE ELECTRIC ARM PITS!
THEIR DRUMMER STOPPED BY THE DAY I FOUND THE NOTE.
PODMAN, MY MAN! YOU'RE HERE EARLY!
SURE THING, EDDIE. GOT TO CHECK OUT SOME EQUIPMENT FOR TONIGHT'S SHOW.
WHO'S YOUR FRIEND?
I'M, UH... TURN-TABLE JONES. I'M A MUSIC MIX MASTER WHEN IT COMES TO--
TURNTABLES? WE'RE ALL DIGITAL HERE.
UH... HE'S OLD SCHOOL NAME, WITH NEW SCHOOL SKILLS. I'M JUST SHOWIN' HIM HOW IT'S DONE UP IN HERE. DAT'S ALL.

WELL, PODMAN IS THE ONE TO LEARN IT FROM. WE'RE DOING GREAT BUSINESS SINCE THE CLUB OPENED A FEW WEEKS AGO... AND HE'S ONE OF THE REASONS!
EDDIE OWNS THIS PLACE...
CO-OWNS, YOU MEAN.
GOT THAT RIGHT. ATLANTA AND I RUN IT TOGETHER!
SURE. HE'S ON THE DANCE FLOOR, PARTYING WITH THE CUSTOMERS EVERY NIGHT...
...WHILE I'M CRUNCHING NUMBERS AND LOOKING FOR PROFIT.
THAT'S TEAM-WORK, DOLL!
PLEASED TO--
BETTER TALK TO THE ARM PITS, DRUMMER, EDDIE. HE'S BEEN COMPLAINING ABOUT THE STAGE LEFT BASS SPEAKER FOR OVER AN HOUR. YOUR ENGINEER IS ALMOST AS FED UP AS I AM!
DON'T MIND HER...
...SHE'S WOUND A LITTLE TIGHT IS ALL.
THE CLUB'S DOING FINE, AND--

JUGHEAD!
RONNIE! WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE?
PICKING UP MY FREE PASSES FOR TONIGHT'S SHOW. I WON THEM WHEN I WAS HERE LAST WEEKEND!
BUT WHY'RE YOU--
I... I JUST GOT THIS, UH... GIG WITH PODMAN HERE!
PODMAN? YOU DON'T KNOW ANY-THING ABOUT PLANTS.
I HAVE MY OWN POD SHOW, AND I'M THE MUSIC MAN HERE.
HE JUST HIRED ME!
HS
WHAT ABOUT YOUR GIGS WITH THE ARCH--!
I NEED THE MONEY... AND YOU CAN'T EXPECT ME TO, UH... KEEP SLINGING BURGERS FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE.
SLINGING? WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOU--!
GOTTA GO NOW, RONNIE! PLENTY OF BUTTONS TO PUSH AND PODS TO CAST, YOU KNOW!
10

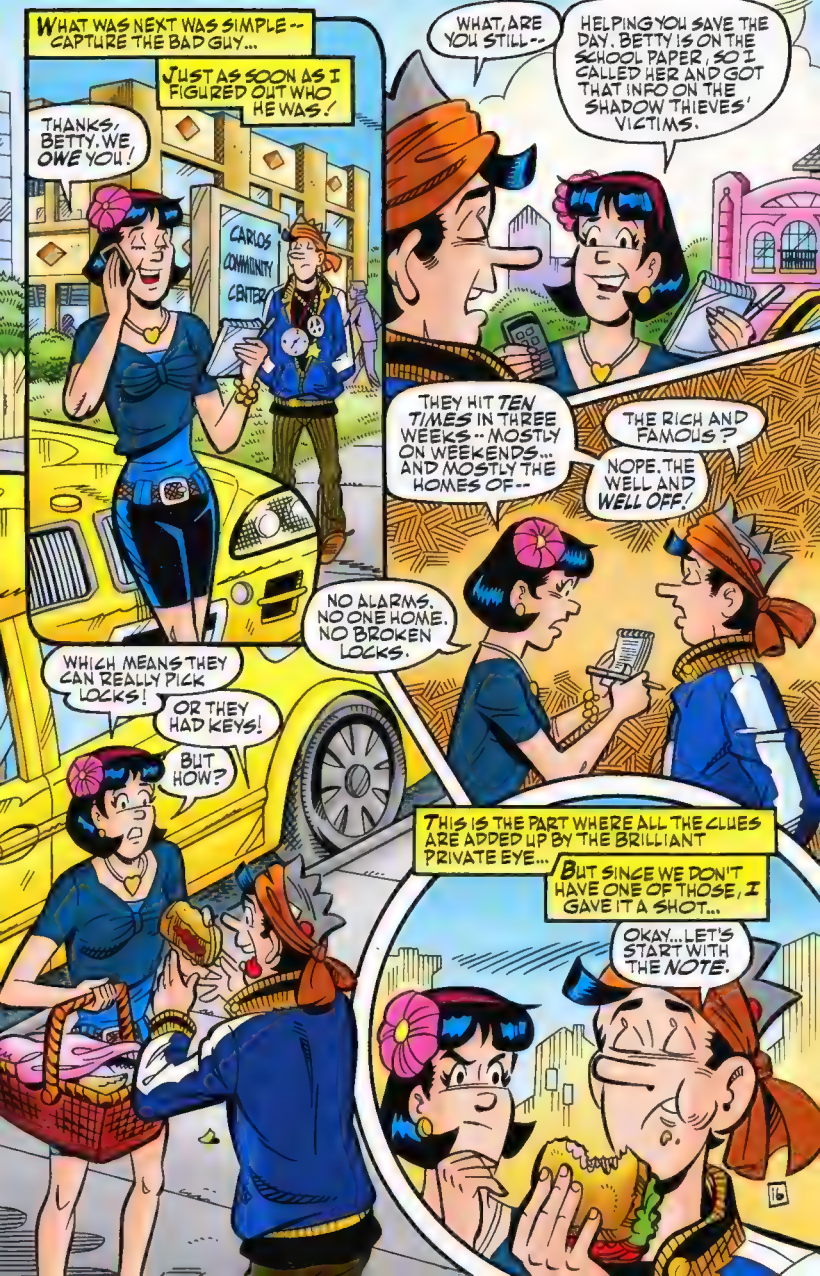
DAT WAS CLOSE, MAN! SHE ALMOST BLEW YOUR COVER.
NOW WHAT? THE THIEVES MAY STRIKE AGAIN TONIGHT.
I STILL HAVE TO CHECK OUT THE OTHER SUSPECT, THAT CD DELIVERY GUY.
HOT SPOT
AND THE TWO KIDS.
I DON'T BELIEVE CHERYL AND REESE ARE INVOLVED.
I HOPE NOT.
BUT I'LL START WITH THE DELIVERY GUY.
DAT'S ON THE OTHER SIDE OF TOWN.
AND I'VE GOT SOME ERRANDS TO RUN BEFORE THE GIG.
THEN I'LL MEET YOU BACK AT THE STUDIO!
YOU DA MAN, MAN.
UH... YEAH.
BUT HOW WILL YOU GET OVER TO HIS SHOP?
THAT'S ALL RIGHT. I CAN ALWAYS BUM A RIDE FROM MY PAL, ARCHIE.
TEEN
11
12

YOU'RE LUCKY I COULD BORROW MY DAD'S CAR!
INCREDIBLY LUCKY.
COME ON, "LEAN AND MEAN"... YOU KNOW YOU WORK BETTER WHEN I'M AROUND. HOW ABOUT THAT CASE AT THE FUN PARK, HUH?
IT WASN'T ALL THAT MUCH FUN.
GRUMBLE ALL YOU WANT, SUGAR. YOU KNOW YOU NEED ME.
HERE WE ARE, SO I'LL GO IN WITH--
NO, YOU WON'T, ETHEL.
THIS GUY MAY BE TOUGH!
I MIGHT HAVE TO CORNER HIM.
JOE'S DELIVERY SERVICE
FREEZE HIM WITH MY STEELY EYES, GRILL HIM LIKE A T-BONE...
GO TOE TO TOE, JAW TO JAW, FIST TO...
NOK!
WHATCHA WANT, SONNY?
OR NOT!
JOE
12

ALL THE WAY BACK TO THE STUDIO, ETHEL TRIED TO CONVINCE ME THAT THE OLD MAN COULD STILL BE A SUSPECT...
SHE SAID THIS WHEN SHE WASN'T LAUGHING AT ME.
MAYBE HE TELLS THEM BEDTIME STORIES AFTER THEY COME BACK FROM A ROBBERY.
DON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT IT, BUB!
VERY FUNNY.
MAYBE HE ONLY CASES THE PLACES THEY'RE GOING TO ROB.
NOT LIKELY. ONLY HOMES WERE ROBBED. HE ONLY DELIVERS TO BUSINESSES!
SO... WHAT NOW?
THE LAST TWO SUSPECTS... THE KIDS--
YOU DON'T THINK THEY'RE THE THIEVES?!
YOU'RE HALF RIGHT, SISTER... I DON'T SEEM TO BE THINKING AT ALL!
I DIDN'T REALLY BELIEVE THE KIDS WERE THE SHADOW THIEVES...
NO PROOF, JUST A FEELING IN MY GUT...
13

OF COURSE IT COULD'VE BEEN THE TUNA AND BANANA SANDWICH I'D HAD FOR LUNCH...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
THAT'S MY LINE.
FUNNY ...NOT.
I'M JUST CLEANING UP STUFF. PODMAN DOESN'T HAVE OFFICE SKILLS. WHAT ABOUT YOU?
I'M THE ASSISTANT... SO I ASSIST!
I'M NOT HERE TO TAKE YOUR JOBS!
WHY? PODMAN FIGURES REESE AND I AREN'T ENOUGH?
HE BROUGHT YOU IN TO TAKE OUR PLACE?
WHAT?
NO!
WE'RE JUST AS GOOD AS YOU. BETTER EVEN!
GOOD! BECAUSE PODMAN DOESN'T WANT TO LOSE YOU!
HE DOESN'T? THEN WHY ARE YOU HERE?
LOOK... SOMEONE IS TRYING TO CAUSE TROUBLE FOR HIM... I'M JUST TRYING TO FIND OUT WHO!
THEN LET ME HELP! I KNOW EVERYTHING ABOUT EVERYTHING AND EVERYBODY!
14

I BET YOU DO!
OKAY... A FEW DAYS AGO, PODMAN FOUND A NOTE ON THE FLOOR OVER THERE. IT FELL OUT OF A PILE OF BLANK CDs THAT WERE DELIVERED THAT DAY. MAYBE YOU SAW SOMEONE--
IT WASN'T A DELIVERY PILE!
VINYLS
WHAT?!
REESE AND I HAVE TO ORGANIZE THINGS AROUND HERE, 'CAUSE PODMAN IS WILD ON MIC... AND WITH EVERYTHING ELSE!
THE PILE THAT FELL WAS STUFF FROM THE ARM PIT.
THAT SOUNDS GROSS!
I MEAN THEY WERE CDs PODMAN USED AT THE TEEN CLUB!
DEMOS?
YEAH, AND SOME OF HIS OWN MUSIC MIXES. REESE AND I HAD ALREADY PUT AWAY THE OTHER STUFF!
THEN IT IS SOMEONE AT THE CLUB!
DUH! NOW WHAT?
GOOD QUESTION.
SMAK!


WHAT WAS NEXT WAS SIMPLE -- CAPTURE THE BAD GUY...
JUST AS SOON AS I FIGURED OUT WHO HE WAS!
THANKS, BETTY. WE OWE YOU!
CARLOS COMMUNITY CENTER
WHAT, ARE YOU STILL--
HELPING YOU SAVE THE DAY. BETTY IS ON THE SCHOOL PAPER, SO I CALLED HER AND GOT THAT INFO ON THE SHADOW THIEVES' VICTIMS.
THEY HIT TEN TIMES IN THREE WEEKS -- MOSTLY ON WEEKENDS... AND MOSTLY THE HOMES OF--
THE RICH AND FAMOUS?
NOPE. THE WELL AND WELL OFF!
NO ALARMS. NO ONE HOME. NO BROKEN LOCKS.
WHICH MEANS THEY CAN REALLY PICK LOCKS!
OR THEY HAD KEYS!
BUT HOW?
THIS IS THE PART WHERE ALL THE CLUES ARE ADDED UP BY THE BRILLIANT PRIVATE EYE...
BUT SINCE WE DON'T HAVE ONE OF THOSE, I GAVE IT A SHOT...
OKAY... LET'S START WITH THE NOTE.
16

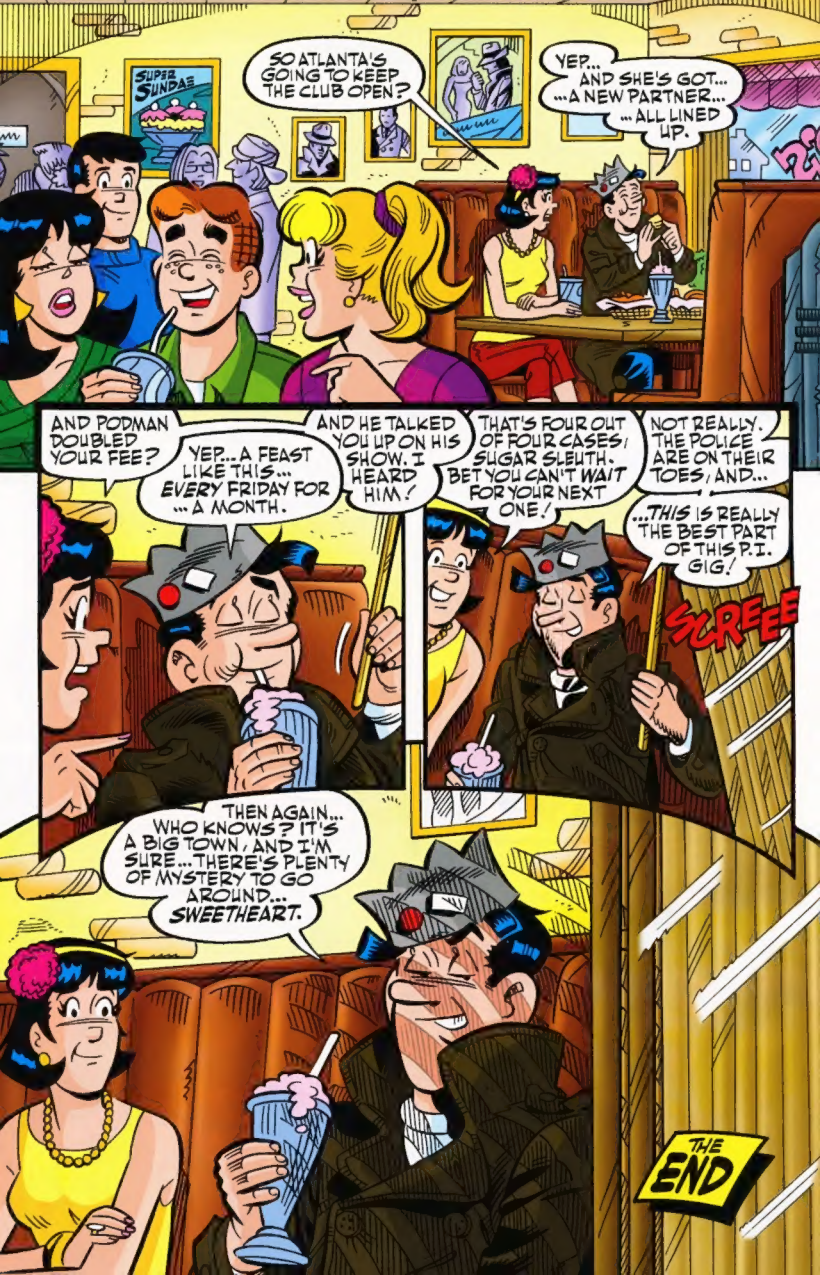
IT LAID OUT ONE OF THEIR JOBS, IN CODE. WHICH MEANS THE THIEVES GET THEIR INSTRUCTIONS FROM SOMEONE ELSE.
GOOD. GOOD. BUT WHO?
TONIGHT... 1122 YOUR PLACE ICE SLIPPERY COOL... NEW DROP FRIDAY 2130 TICK BOTTOM COLUMN...
POSSIBLY SOMEONE WHO DOESN'T WANT TO BE SEEN OR KNOWN.
OKAY. OKAY. HE DOESN'T WANT TO BE SEEN OR KNOWN, BUT HE TELLS THEM WHAT AND WHERE.
BBQ SHIPS
BUT HOW DO THEY KNOW WHEN? NO ONE'S EVER HOME WHEN THEY HIT.
YEAH, HOW DOES HE GET THAT INFORMATION?
THE NOTE GAVE THE ADDRESS, AND THEN SAID--
"ICE SLIPPERY COOL... NEW DROP FRIDAY 2130 TICK BOTTOM COLUMN..."
ICE MEANS DIAMONDS AND JEWELS, RIGHT?
YEAH. TODAY IS FRIDAY... AND 2130 TICK COULD MEAN...
NINE-THIRTY! CAN YOU FIND OUT WHAT THE VICTIMS WERE DOING THE NIGHT OF THE ROBBERIES?
SURE THING, SUGAR!
GREAT! DO THAT RIGHT AFTER YOU GET ME TO THE CLUB... FAST!

IT WAS ALL GUESS WORK, SO MAYBE I WAS WRONG...
THEN AGAIN, EVEN A BROKEN WATCH IS RIGHT TWICE A DAY...
HOT SPOT
AND SOMEHOW, THIS HAS ALL STARTED TO MAKE SENSE... SORT OF.
TALK TO BETTY, THEN FOLLOW ME INSIDE.
WHERE YOU BEEN, MAN?!
EARNING MY BURGERS AND FRIES, MAN.
ARM PIT
AGAIN WITH THE CHASING! MAYBE I SHOULD CHARGE BY THE MILE.
18

WHENEVER I WATCHED DETECTIVE MOVIES, I ALWAYS WONDERED ABOUT CERTAIN THINGS...
LIKE, WHY DID THE DETECTIVES HAVE TO LOSE HALF THEIR CLIENTS BEFORE THEY FIGURED OUT WHO DID IT?
OR LIKE WHEN THE LIGHTS WENT OUT IN A SPOOKY OLD HOUSE, WHY DIDN'T EVERYONE GET OUT OF THERE FAST?
AND OF COURSE THE BIGGEST QUESTION WAS ALWAYS... CAN THE HERO HEAR YOU SCREAMING "THE VILLAIN IS BEHIND YOU"...
...BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE?
BUMP!
GUESS NOT!
19

TWO THINGS FLASHED BEFORE MY EYES...
THE ROPE THAT KEPT ME FROM BECOMING GUACAMOLE ON THE STAGE FLOOR...
...AND THE SOLUTION TO THE CASE.
SOMEONE AT THE CLUB HAD TO GATHER INFO FOR THE THIEVES!
WAP!
SOMEONE WHO GOT THEM HAPPY, JUMPING, LAUGHING, AND...
...TALKING. TALKING ABOUT THEIR DAY... THEIR FRIENDS... THEIR HOMES...
PLOP!
...AND WHEN NO ONE WOULD BE THERE!
EDDIE! WHAT IS GOING ON?!
10

BETTY TOLD ME THE VICTIMS HAD TEENS WHO WERE HERE ON OR BEFORE THE NIGHT THEIR HOMES WERE ROBBED.
THAT'S HOW THE BANDITS KNEW WHEN AND WHERE TO STRIKE!
STAFF
YEAH, MAN... EDDIE WAS ALWAYS BUSY CHATTING UP EVERY-ONE IN THE PLACE. WE ALL THOUGHT HE WAS JUST BEING A GOOD HOST!
HE WAS... WHILE GATHERING INFO TO PASS ON TO HIS BOYS!
AND THEY DIDN'T KNOW WHO THEY WERE WORKING FOR?
NOPE. EDDIE WANTED IT THAT WAY!
WAIT A MINUTE! EDDIE GAVE ME THOSE FREE PASSES!
Uh... YEAH. WELL THAT WAS ONE OF HIS WAYS OF MAKING SURE NO ONE WAS HOME.
HE WAS...!
WELL, THE LAW HAS THEM NOW, THANKS TO MY SUPER SLEUTH HERE!
WOMP! WOMP!
AND JAIL MIGHT BE THE SAFEST PLACE FOR THEM!
21


SUPER SUNDAE
SO ATLANTA'S GOING TO KEEP THE CLUB OPEN?
YEP... AND SHE'S GOT... ...A NEW PARTNER... ...ALL LINED UP.
AND PODMAN DOUBLED YOUR FEE?
YEP... A FEAST LIKE THIS... EVERY FRIDAY FOR ...A MONTH.
AND HE TALKED YOU UP ON HIS SHOW. I HEARD HIM!
THAT'S FOUR OUT OF FOUR CASES, SUGAR SLEUTH. BET YOU CAN'T WAIT FOR YOUR NEXT ONE!
NOT REALLY. THE POLICE ARE ON THEIR TOES, AND...
...THIS IS REALLY THE BEST PART OF THIS P.I. GIG!
SCREEE
THEN AGAIN... WHO KNOWS? IT'S A BIG TOWN, AND I'M SURE... THERE'S PLENTY OF MYSTERY TO GO AROUND... SWEETHEART.
THE END

NEXT ISSUE...

ON SALE THE WEEK OF

MARCH 29TH 2011

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JUGHEAD JONES: SEMI-PRIVATE EYE

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of SUPERHEROES
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